

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 05015 200551Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 IO-13 EUR-12

NEA-10 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /075 W

-----102902 200651Z /14-S

R 200510Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3275

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

SECRET

SECRET

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S E C R E T SANA 5015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US, YE

SUBJECT: YEMEN POSITION ON SOVIET AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA

REF: A. STATE 297314

B. SANA 4934

1. DURING DECEMBER 19 MEETING, I RAISED WITH  
PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI MATTER OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS  
OF MIDDLE EAST AND UFG IN PARTICULAR OF YEMEN AS  
PART OF CURRENT SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MILITARY  
SUPPLIES TO ETHIOPIA. I ASKED HIM WHAT YARG  
POSITION IS  
ON THESE OVERFLIGHTS AND WHAT, IF  
ANYTHING, YARG MAY BE PREPARED TO DO TO SVSAK  
OUT AGAINST THIS BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN SERIOUS  
AFRICAN REGION  
A PROBLEM. GHASHMI REPLIED THANKS  
HE IS AWARE OF SOVIET  
OVERFLIGHTS OF YEMEN BUT  
ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHAT CAN YEMEN DO." HE  
CONTINUED THAT IF OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION WHOSE AIR  
SPACE IS ALSO BEING VIOLATED ARE PREPARED TO SPEAK  
OUT, YEMEN WILL OF COURSE FOLLOW SUIT. IN ABSENCE  
OF SUCH STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, YARG WILL FIND IT  
DIFFICULT TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME. HE  
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT IF PIDAN, SAUDI ARABIA/  
574(36, AND IRAN "SAY SOMETHING," YEMEN WILL  
FIND IT EASIER TO DO THE SAME.

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2. GHASHMI CONTINUED THAT YEMEN OF COURSE  
SUPPORTS SOMALIA AND WOULD "FIGHT ALONG SIDE OUR  
SOMALI BROTHERS IF WE HAD THE ARMS." GHASHMI  
THEN ASKED WHAT US IS DOING TO HELP SOMALIA,  
NOTING THAT SOMALI REGIME HAS BEEN PLEADING  
FOR WESTERN MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT THUS FAR  
GETTING NO POSITIVE REPLY. I TOLD HIM THAT US  
VIEWS SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM IN AFRICAN CONTEXT  
AND HOPES THAT IT CAN BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY IN THAT  
SAME CONTEXT. I CONTINUED THAT US DEPLORES  
STRONGLY ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THIS MATTER.  
GHASHMI REPLIED THAT USG SHOULD NOT VIEW THIS  
PROBLEM ONLY IN AFRICAN CONTEXT BUT ALSO IN CONTEXT  
OF RED SEA AND SOVIET AIMS IN THIS REGION. HE  
EMPHASIZED THAT THE US SHOULD SUPPORT MODERATE  
PRO-WESTERN REGIMES IN THE RED SEA REGION AND  
AS SOMALIA IS NOW EVOLVING IN DIRECTION OF MORE  
MODERATE POLICIES, USG SHOULD ENCOURAGE THIS  
TREND. HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT USG WILL  
REPLY POSITIVELY TO SOMALI REQUEST FOR ARMS.

3. COMMENT: I HAD EARLIER RAISED THIS MATTER

WITH MINISTER OF STATE, AHMAD ABDU SAID, WHO  
ALSO GAVE ME SAME REPLY. IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL,  
THEREFORE, THAT YEMEN WILL TAKE ANY PUBLIC  
POSITION ON SOVIET AIRLIFT UNTIL SUCH TIME ASE  
OTHERS IN REGION DO LIKEWISE.  
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRLIFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANA05015  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770473-0571  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 297314, 77 SANA 4934  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 169242  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YEMEN POSITION ON SOVIET AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US, YE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5e64cbff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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